

May 31, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

*RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

National Industries for the Blind enhances the opportunities for economic and personal independence of persons who are blind, primarily through creating, sustaining and improving employment. NIB and its associated agencies serve as the largest program responsible for the employment of people who are blind through the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act and the AbilityOne Program, a federal purchasing program that enables people who are blind to work and provide products and services to federal and commercial customers.

Today, NIB's role in the AbilityOne Program is considered an employment model that encourages private/public partnerships and empowers people who are blind to become more economically integrated. NIB's strategy for moving forward includes plans to further diversify employment opportunities for people who are blind; to create product and service awareness within government agencies; to aggressively market the highest quality products and services; to generate public and private partnerships; and to provide technical, operational, marketing and business development services to its associated, community-based agencies.

Access to the latest technologies is vital to our success in delivering these new and exciting career opportunities for people who are blind. Our organization and associated nonprofit agencies, which offer rehabilitative services to nearly 170,000 people, also directly employ more than 6,000 people annually who are blind and pay out more than \$100 million in wages and benefits.

As a result, we applaud AT&T for its long term commitment to developing and offering products and services that are accessible. Whether it is offering screen readers at very low cost or working with the AT&T Advisory Panel on Access and Aging to further improve the company's accessibility offerings, AT&T has shown a commitment to accessibility that has greatly benefited individuals with disabilities.

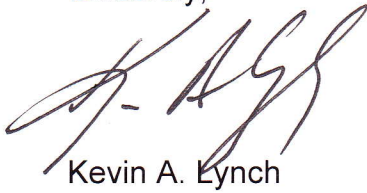
Beyond its currently available products and services, the AT&T Labs are developing the next generation of accessibility technology. Products like AT&T Watson and AT&T Natural Voice, two of the industry leading speech recognition and text-to-speech technologies.

The leadership at AT&T has indicated that a merger with T-Mobile will provide millions of additional Americans with access to AT&T's 4G LTE technology, access that would have both economic and accessibility benefits. This expansion would mean that more people with disabilities would have the opportunity to access the next generation of accessibility technology. Introducing millions of additional Americans to affordable, reliable wireless broadband would help my organization fulfill its mission of creating new opportunities for people who are blind, a community that experiences 70 percent nationwide unemployment.

Faster and more accessible wireless broadband also would increase overall Internet adoption rates, creating new employment and training opportunities for people who are blind, as well as allowing them to live more independent lives.

As you move forward with the decision-making process on the AT&T and T-Mobile merger, I hope the Commission will consider the potential benefits of this deal for the disability community, and we invite you to contact our organization directly if you have any questions with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Lynch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin A. Lynch  
KAL/tp/lcr

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker